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DE RUEHSG #0105 0181310  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 8244  
RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS 0846

UNCLAS SANTIAGO 000105

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STATE FOR IIP/G/WHA, INR/R/MR, WHA/BSC, WHA/PDA, INR/IAA  
AMEMBASSY FOR PAO, IO

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: [OPRC](#) [KMDR](#) [KPAO](#) [CI](#) [VE](#)  
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION - VENEZUELA

On January 14, conservative, influential newspaper-of-record "El Mercurio" (circ. 116,807) carried an editorial entitled, "Chavez' Activism." Quote:

"What has happened (with Mexico, Peru and Chile) prove right those who saw in Hugo Chavez a successor to Fidel Castro and predicted an intent to reconstitute something akin to the late Latin American Organization for Solidarity (OLAS), promoted by the Cuban dictator in the 70s with other Latin American leftist leaders and led by former President Salvador Allende. The antibodies Chavez generates and the reality of globalization will make it hard to reach his goal of Latin American leadership."

KELLY